



Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report For Littleton Lyne Apartments

What is SWAP?

The Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP), established under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, requires every state to:

- ? Inventory land uses within the recharge areas of all public water supply sources;
- ? Assess the susceptibility of drinking water sources to contamination from these land uses; and
- ? Publicize the results to provide support for improved protection.

SWAP and Water Quality

Susceptibility of a drinking water source does *not* imply poor water quality. Actual water quality is best reflected by the results of regular water tests.

Water suppliers protect drinking water by monitoring for more than 100 chemicals, treating water supplies, and using source protection measures to ensure that safe water is delivered to the tap.

Prepared by the
Massachusetts Department of
Environmental Protection,
Bureau of Resource
Protection,
Drinking Water Program

Date Prepared:
June 6, 2001

Table 1: Public Water System (PWS) Information

PWS NAME	Littleton Lyne Apartments
PWS Address	119-125 Littleton Road
City/Town	Ayer, Massachusetts
PWS ID Number	2019007
Local Contact	Bob Martin
Phone Number	(978) 486-3395

Well Name	Source ID#	Zone I (in feet)	IWPA (in feet)	Source Susceptibility
Well #1	2019007-01G	260	646	Moderate

Introduction

We are all concerned about the quality of the water we drink. Drinking water wells may be threatened by many potential contaminant sources, including septic systems, road salting, and improper disposal of hazardous materials. Citizens and local officials can work together to better protect these drinking water sources.

Purpose of this report:

This report is a planning tool to support local and state efforts to improve water supply protection. By identifying land uses within water supply protection areas that may be potential contaminant sources, the assessment helps focus protection efforts on appropriate best management practices (BMPs) and drinking water source protection measures. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) staff are available to provide information about funding and other resources that may be available to your community.

This report includes:

1. Description of the Water System
2. Discussion of Land Uses within Protection Areas
3. Recommendations for Protection
4. Attachments, including a Map of the Protection Areas

1. Description of the Water System

The facility gets its water from one well located in a pump house the woods behind the apartment complex. The well has a Zone I of 260 feet and an Interim Wellhead Protection Area (IWPA) of 646 feet. The well is located in an aquifer with a high vulnerability to contamination due to the absence of hydrogeologic barriers that can prevent contaminant migration. Please refer to the attached map of the Zone I and IWPA.

The well serving the facility is treated with a limestone contactor for corrosion control. For current information on monitoring results and treatment and a copy of the most recent Consumer Confidence Report, please contact the Public Water System contact person listed above in Table 1.

What is a Protection Area?

A well's water supply protection area is the land around the well where protection activities should be focused. Each well has a Zone I protective radius and an Interim Wellhead Protection Area (IWPA).

- **The Zone I** is the area that should be owned or controlled by the water supplier and limited to water supply activities.

- **The IWPA** is the larger area that is likely to contribute water to the well.

In many instances the IWPA does not include the entire land area that could contribute water to the well. Therefore, the well may be susceptible to contamination from activities outside of the IWPA that are not identified in this report.

What is Susceptibility?

Susceptibility is a measure of a well's potential to become contaminated due to land uses and activities within the Zone I and Interim Wellhead Protection Area (IWPA).

2. Discussion of Land Uses in the Protection Areas

There are a number of land uses and activities within the drinking water supply protection areas that are potential sources of contamination.

Key issues include:

1. **Inappropriate Activities in Zone Is;**
2. **Septic system within the IWPA; and**
3. **Stream within the IWPA.**
4. **Transportation Corridor**

The overall ranking of susceptibility to contamination for the well is Moderate, based on the presence of at least one Moderate threat land use or activity in the IWPA, as seen in Table 2.

1. **Zone I** – Currently, the well does not meet DEP's restrictions, which only allow water supply related activities in Zone Is. The facility's Zone I contains parking areas. The public water supplier owns and controls all land encompassed by the Zone 1. Please note that systems not meeting DEP Zone I requirements must get DEP approval and address Zone I issues prior to increasing water use or modifying systems.

Recommendations:

- ✓ Remove all non-water supply activities from the Zone I to comply with DEP's Zone I requirements.
- ✓ If the facility intends to continue utilizing the parking areas in the Zone 1, use BMPs to control activities that could pose a threat to the water supply, including directing stormwater runoff away from the Zone I.

2. **Septic system** - The septic system is located within the IWPA. The septic system is pumped annually. If a septic system fails or is not properly maintained it could be a potential source of microbial contamination. Improper disposal of household hazardous chemicals to septic systems is a potential source of contamination to the water supply.

Recommendations:

- ✓ Do not pour hazardous materials down drains or toilets.
- ✓ Avoid septic tank cleaners, especially those with acids and solvents.
- ✓ Septic system components should be located, inspected, and maintained on a regular basis. Refer to the attachments for more information regarding septic systems.

Table 2: Table of Activities within the Water Supply Protection Areas

Potential Contaminant Sources	Zone I	IWPA	Threat	Comments
Parking lot	Yes	Yes	Moderate	Limit road salt usage and provide drainage away from wells
Septic System	No	Yes	Moderate	See septic system brochure
Aquatic wildlife	Yes	Yes	Low	Stream
Transportation corridor	No	No	----	Route 2A passes near the IWPA

* -For more information on Contaminants of Concern associated with individual facility types and land uses please see the SWAP Draft Land Use / Associated Contaminants Matrix on DEP's website - www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws/.

Glossary

Zone I: The area closest to a well; a 100 to 400 foot radius proportional to the well's pumping rate. To determine your Zone I radius, refer to the attached map.

IWPA: A 400 foot to ½ mile radius around a public water supply well proportional to its pumping rate; the area DEP recommends for protection in the absence of a defined Zone I I. To determine IWPA radius, refer to the attached map.

Zone II: The primary recharge area defined by a hydrogeologic study.

Aquifer: An underground water-bearing layer of permeable material that will yield water in a usable quantity to a well.

Hydrogeologic Barrier: An underground layer of impermeable material that resists penetration by water.

Recharge Area: The surface area that contributes water to a well.

3. **Aquatic wildlife** - A stream is located within the Zone 1 and IWPA. Duck and other wildlife waste in and around the stream is a potential source of contamination to the water supply.

Recommendation:

✓ Discourage wildlife by prohibiting the feeding of ducks or other wildlife.

4. **Transportation corridor** - Although Route 2A is located outside of the protection area, the proximity of the road increases the chances of contamination from spills, leaks and road salt.

Recommendation:

✓ Contact local fire department to ensure that the IWPA is included in Emergency Response Planning.

Implementing the following recommendations will reduce the system's susceptibility to contamination.

3. Protection Recommendations

Implementing protection measures and best management practices (BMPs) will reduce the well's susceptibility to contamination. Littleton Lyne Apartments should review and adopt the key recommendations above and the following:

Zone I:

- ✓ Keep non-water supply activities out of the Zone I.
- ✓ Remove all non-water supply activities from the Zone I to comply with DEP's Zone I requirements.
- ✓ Consider well relocation if Zone I threats cannot be mitigated.

Training and Education:

- ✓ Train staff on proper hazardous material use, disposal, emergency response, and best management practices; include custodial staff, groundskeepers certified operator and tenants .
- ✓ Post drinking water protection area signs at key visibility

Facilities Management:

- ✓ Implement standard operating procedures regarding proper storage, use and disposal of hazardous materials.

Planning:

- ✓ Work with local officials in Ayer to include the facility IWPA in Aquifer Protection District Bylaws and to assist you in improving protection.
- ✓ Have a plan to address short-term water shortages and long-term water demands. Keep the phone number of a bottled water company readily available.

Supplement the SWAP assessment with additional local information and incorporate it into water supply educational efforts. Use a potential contaminant threat inventory to assist in setting priorities, focusing inspections, and creating educational activities.

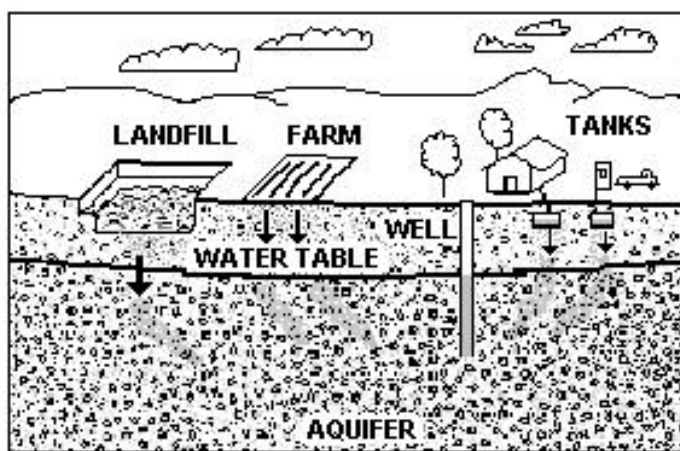


Figure 1: Example of how a well could become contaminated by different land uses and activities.

For More Information:

Contact **Josephine Yemoh-Ndi** in DEP's **Worcester Office** at **(508) 792-7650 x 5030** for more information and for assistance in improving current protection measures.

More information relating to drinking water and source protection is available on the Drinking Water Program web site at:

www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws/

Copies of this assessment have been provided to the public water supplier, town boards, the town library and the local media.

These recommendations are only part of your ongoing local drinking water source protection. Citizens and community officials should use this SWAP report to spur discussion of local drinking water protection measures.

4. Attachments

- Map of the Public Water Supply (PWS) Protection Area.
- Recommended Source Protection Measures Factsheet
- Your Septic System Brochure
- Source Protection Sign Order Form

Additional Documents:

To help with source protection efforts, more information is available by request or online at www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws/, including:

1. Water Supply Protection Guidance Materials such as model regulations, Best Management Practice information, and general water supply protection information.
2. MA DEP SWAP Strategy
3. Land Use Pollution Potential Matrix
4. Draft Land/Associated Contaminants Matrix

